

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 18851 291806Z

44

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W

----- 052647

R 291638Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4914

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL MILAN

UNCLAS ROME 18851

FOR: STATE CU/WE, CU/ARTS SOLMSEN

USIA IEU AND ICS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IT

SUBJECT: VENICE BIENNALE: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, NEED FOR DECISION

1. IN NOVEMBER CAO AND PAO VISITED BY RIPA DI MEANA, PRESIDENT OF VENICE BIENNALE. OBJECT OF VISIT CLEARLY TO PUT TO REST OUR FEARS ABOUT POLITICIZATION OF VENICE BIENNALE AND TO PLEAD FOR U.S. ROLE. MEANA SEES U.S. AS INDISPENSIBLE. U.S. IS FAR AHEAD IN ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT, U.S. PRESENCE ONLY COUNTERBALANCE TO TENDENCY OF HIS BOARD TO PUSH BIENNALE INTO LEFTIST POSITION, BIENNALE REPRESENTS GOAD TO EAST EUROPEAN SOCIETIES, SINCE IT OFFERS A WINDOW ON THE WEST AND ON CULTURAL FREEDOMS.

2. BIENNALE WILL TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR FROM JUNE 13 UNTIL OCTOBER 10. WHILE FILM AND PERFORMING ARTS SECTIONS WILL SEEK OUT U.S. PARTICIPATION VIA PRIVATE CHANNELS, VISUAL ARTS AND SO-CALLED "ARCHIVAL" FUNCTION WILL NEED MORE DIRECT U.S. COOPERATION. SPECIFICALLY, PLANNING REQUIRED FOR VISUAL ARTS DIVISION, BIENNALE'S MOST IMPORTANT SHOWCASE. THEME, AS FOR ENTIRE BIENNALE, IS ENVIRONMENT. POTENTIAL AUDIENCE 250,000.

3. CAO VISITED DECEMBER 12 BY VITTORIO GREGOTTI, DIRECTOR OF VISUAL ARTS SECTOR, WHO EXPLAINED THAT ENVIRONMENT AS APPLIED TO VISUAL ARTS MEANS ENVIRONMENTAL ART IN ITS NUMEROUS MANIFESTATIONS SUCH AS LAND ART, EXPLORING THE ARTIST'S SENSE OF THE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ROME 18851 291806Z

RELATIONSHIP OF MAN TO HIS SURROUNDINGS. GREGOTTI, STRESSING

THE GAPING HOLE WHICH WOULD BE CAUSED BY U.S. ABSENCE, LISTED IMPRESSIVE PLANS FOR PARTICIPATION FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, THEN SPOKE OF VARIOUS CASUAL AND PRIVATE CONTACTS HE HAD HAD WITH AMERICANS IN THE ART WORLD: THOMAS MESSER OF GUGGENHEIM, AMBAST (SP.?) OF MOMA, PETER EISERMAN OF N.Y. FOUNDATION FOR URBAN STUDIES. ACCORDING TO BOTH MEANA AND GREGOTTI, LEO CASTELLI HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS INDEAD EAGERNESS TO HANDLE ENTIRE VISUAL ARTS PORTION OF BIENNALE, PROPOSING SHOW OF PEOPLE LIKE RICHARD SERRA, ROBERT MORRIS, RICHARD EISER, BUT VENICE BIENNALE HAS STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT TURNING OVER NATIONAL PARTICIPATION TO DEALER.

4. ON JANUARY 9 MAJOR MEETING IN VENICE WILL GROUP ALL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. CAO AND MILAN BPAO PLAN ATTEND. AT THIS MEETING ALL COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO SKETCH OUT THEIR PROGRAM PLANS IN AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE. GREGOTTI THEN PLANS TO TRAVEL TO MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRIES IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, TO GET FIRMER HOLD ON PLANS AND PROBLEMS. WOULD LIKE BEGIN WITH U.S. VISIT, BUT RELUCTANT UNDERTAKE JOURNEY WITHOUT KNOWING IF U.S. WILL PARTICIPATE. THEREFORE ASKS THAT WE INFORM HIM ON JANUARY 9 WHETHER OR NOT U.S. WILL PARTICIPATE AND FURTHER ASKS WE GIVE ANY INDICATION OF NATURE OUR PARTICIPATION, HOWEVER GENERAL THE TERMS.

5. WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR VISUAL ARTS DIVISION IS A U.S. PAVILION-FILLIG SHOW, OVER THREE HUNDRED RUNNING FEET OF WALL SPACE, PRESUMABLY SPOTLIGHTING THREE, FOUR OR MORE U.S. ARTISTS.

6. CONCURRENT WITH MAJOR EXHIBITS IN VISUAL FIELD, "ARCHIVAL" DIVISION WORKING IN PARALLEL. GERMANO CELANT IS PREPARING A HISTOTICAL AND EXPLANATORY EXHIBIT TO SHOW HOW ARTISTS PAST AND PRESENT HAVE RELATED TO THE ENVORONMENT. GREGOTTI ASSUMES THAT CELANT WILL WANT TO INCLUDE A VARIETY OF AMERICAN ARTISTS IN THIS SECTOR AS WELL.

7. THEREFORE REQUEST EARLY INDICATION REGARDING U.S. PARTICIPATION AND IF POSITIVE NAMES OF PEOPLE WITH WHOM GREGOTTI SHOULD MAKE CONTACT DURING U.S. TRIP.VOLPE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 18851 291806Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME18851
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750449-0102
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975128/aaaaagih.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAR 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENICE BIENNALE: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, NEED FOR DECISION
TAGS: SCUL, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006